



VIA: USPS Certified Mail
Shipping Event: 1st

December 29, 2011

Maria Esters
5083 Spruce Circle
Trussville, AL 35173

WARNING LETTER

Re: Reference number NC10019-AC

Dear Sir or Madam:

Why You Are Receiving This Letter

We believe that you violated the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. § 1821 et seq.) (HPA), as described in the attached Official Warning. Our agency, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is responsible for enforcing the HPA, and other agriculture laws, to protect American agriculture from plant pests and animal diseases, and to ensure the welfare of animals.


We may, after providing you with opportunity for a hearing, impose civil penalties of up to \$2,200 for each violation, or other sanctions for the violations described in the Official Warning. Though we usually pursue penalties for the types of violations described in the Official Warning, we have decided not to pursue penalties for these violations so long as you comply, in the future, with laws that APHIS enforces involving animal and plant health.

Consequences of Continuing Non-Compliance

If you violate laws that APHIS enforces in the future, we may pursue criminal penalties, or may pursue civil penalties for the violations described in the attached Official Warning, in addition to any penalties we may pursue for any future violations.

What To Do If You Have Questions

If you have any questions concerning this letter, contact Jennifer Jones at (301) 734-0890 or call our main office number at (301) 734-8684.

<p>UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE</p>  <p>OFFICIAL WARNING VIOLATION OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS</p>		<p>CASE NUMBER: NC10019-AC</p>	
	<p>VIOLATOR: Maria Esters</p>	<p>ADDRESS (Street, City, State, ZIP Code): 5083 Spruce Circle Trussville, AL 35173</p>	
<p>The Department of Agriculture has evidence that on or about the date(s) listed below, you or your organization committed the following violation(s) of Federal Regulations:</p> <p>Date of Violation: June 6, 2009</p> <p>15 U.S.C. § 1824(2) Unlawful Act. The (A) showing or exhibiting, in any horse show or horse exhibition, of any horse which is sore, (B) entering for the purpose of showing or exhibiting in any horse show or horse exhibition, any horse which is sore, (C) selling, auctioning, or offering for sale, in any horse sale or auction, any horse which is sore, and (D) allowing any activity described in clause (A), (B), or (C) respecting a horse which is sore by the owner of such horse.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">You allowed the sore horse, "Mama's Almighty Dollar," to be entered for the purpose of showing or exhibiting, in the 41st Annual Walking Horse Trainer's Show.</p> <p>Date of Violation: June 6, 2009</p> <p>15 U.S.C. § 1824(7) Unlawful Acts. The showing or exhibiting at a horse show or horse exhibition; the selling or auctioning at a horse sale or auction; the allowing to be shown, exhibited, or sold at a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction; the entering for the purpose of showing or exhibiting in any horse show or horse exhibition; or offering for sale at a horse sale or auction, any horse which is wearing or bearing any equipment, device, paraphernalia, or substance which the Secretary by regulation...prohibits to prevent the soring of horses.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">You allowed the sore horse, "Mama's Almighty Dollar," to be entered for the purpose of showing or exhibiting, in the 41st Annual Walking Horse Trainer's Show.</p>			
<p>These federal requirements were created to help prevent the spread of animal and plant pests and diseases, or to ensure the welfare of animals. Since violations of the regulations can have serious and costly impacts detrimental to the public interest, you are warned of this violation. Any further violation of these federal requirements may result in the assessment of a civil penalty or criminal prosecution. If you have any questions concerning this warning or violation, please contact the APHIS officials listed in this notice.</p>			
<p>APHIS OFFICIAL (Name) Sarah L. Conant</p>	<p>OFFICE ADDRESS: 4700 River Road, Unit 85 Riverdale, MD 20737</p>		
<p>APHIS OFFICIAL (Title) Supervisor, Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Branch</p>	<p>DATE ISSUED: December 29, 2011</p>	<p>TELEPHONE NUMBER: (301) 734-8684</p>	



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and Area Managers:

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- ☐ J. Freeman, IES WR
- ☐ K. Kraubner-Lucas, IES WR
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- ☐ L. Carson, IES WR

CC to Others:

B. Newman, IES WR
R. Cezar, AC HQ
C. Jones, AC HQ

DCB Compliance Assistant: Ember Smootz

Production Notes:

T02A Warning Letter (9-11)

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